

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 70

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cynthia Nava

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT CREATE A TASK FORCE
12 TO STUDY THE CONDITION OF PRISONERS IN THE NEW MEXICO PRISON
13 SYSTEM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

14
15 WHEREAS, millions of tax dollars are spent annually on
16 imprisoning criminals while recidivism rates remain high; and

17 WHEREAS, at least one-half of all convicts are
18 incarcerated for nonviolent crimes; and

19 WHEREAS, prison environments are often overcrowded,
20 creating health hazards and facilitating the spread of disease;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, violence is prevalent in many prisons, and many
23 prisoners commit suicide; and

24 WHEREAS, most prisoners are under the age of thirty-five,
25 and many are women and young adults; and

.178564.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration in New Mexico is at
2 least ten times the cost of probation or parole; and

3 WHEREAS, effective programs and support structures can
4 directly address recidivism and significantly reduce
5 corrections costs; and

6 WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of Hispanic, Native
7 American and African American persons are incarcerated;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be
10 requested to convene a task force to study the condition of
11 prisoners in New Mexico prisons and make recommendations for
12 improvements, enlisting participation in the task force from
13 the workforce solutions, public education, higher education and
14 human services departments; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present its
16 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
17 committee by the fall of 2009; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretaries of workforce solutions, public
20 education, higher education and human services.